

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Examiner. Applicant has amended claim 1 and accordingly dependent claims 2-5 and 7-15. Applicant believes these claims are now in condition for allowance for the reasons stated below. Furthermore, Applicant disagrees with the basis for the rejection of claims 16-20 and believes these claims to be allowable over the cited references.

As to claims 1-5 and 7-15, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation “wherein said load optimization data comprises at least government load limit information.” None of the references cited by the Examiner describes this feature. The storage in memory of various regulations that vary from state to state permits the invention to compare government load limits for a particular jurisdiction with a particular reading of the load sensors. Thus, the invention permits the truck driver to optimize load distribution for each state he enters to comply with load limit regulations there. Because this feature is not taught by any reference cited by the Examiner, claims 1-5 and 7-15 are now allowable.

Claims 5-8 are allowable over the cited reference for the additional reasons that they include features not shown in combination with the feature of amended claim 1. Specifically, load optimization data may further include vehicle characteristic information (claim 5), vehicle performance information (claim 7), and vehicle power train information (claim 8). None of the references cited by the Examiner show this information used in conjunction with “government load limit information” to optimize the load distribution of a vehicle. Accordingly, these claims are in condition for allowance.

As to claims 16-20, claim 16 requires “producing instructions for optimizing load distribution based upon the evaluation.” None of the references cited by the Examiner teaches this step. *Stevenson* only shows how weight is distributed across the length of the truck as shown in Figure 3 and Figure 5. *Stevenson* does not teach the offering of instructions for how to optimize load once knowing how load is distributed across the vehicle. Moreover, *Kyrtsos* (U.S. 6,363,331 B1) also fails to teach this step. Instead, *Kyrtsos* only teaches the use of “warning signals” (column 2, ll 49-57). *Kyrtsos* does not offer instructions on how load may be distributed to avoid or terminate these warning signals. Finally, *Baker* (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,889) also fails to offer such instructions. Accordingly, claims 16-20 are allowable.

A check in the amount of \$54.00 is enclosed for three claims in excess of twenty. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

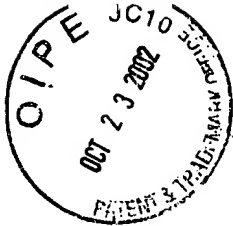
Respectfully submitted,

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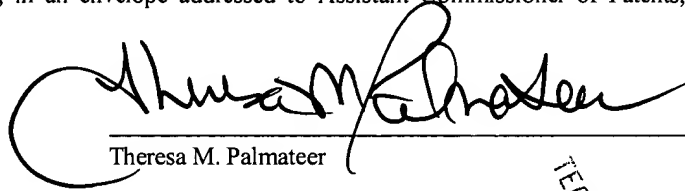
Dated: October 14, 2002



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment and Fees is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on October 14, 2002.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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APPENDIX 1

“VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE”
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A system for optimizing load distribution on a vehicle comprising:

at least one load sensor generating a load signal;

a memory unit storing load optimization data; and

an evaluation unit in communication with said load sensor and said memory unit for evaluating said load signal based upon said load optimization data wherein said load optimization data comprises at least government load limit information.

5. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said load optimization data further comprises vehicle characteristic information for optimizing load distribution.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said load optimization data further comprises vehicle performance information for optimizing load distribution.

8. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said load optimization data further comprises vehicle power train information for optimizing load distribution.